

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Cc: [Shauna DeBodt](#)
Subject: D Kurucz FW: Traffic Control - Endangering Students, Pedestrians and Motorists.
Date: December 15, 2022 7:41:50 AM

From: darrenkurucz@gmail.com <>
Sent: December 13, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Trustees <Trustees@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: Traffic Control - Endangering Students, Pedestrians and Motorists.

CAUTION: External Message

My name is Darren Kurucz and I am a Departure Bay resident with two daughters in Departure Bay Elementary. I also have a background in construction, traffic control and have managed teams of traffic control personnel in my career.

I have a very serious concern with schools such as Rock City Elementary that have children in high viz vests, holding stop signs and stepping in front of vehicles. I want to see immediate action taken before I need to drive past a memorial for an elementary student on my morning commute.

In the past decade, in BC alone there have been more than 10 fatalities and 200+ serious injuries to roadside workers. These incidents happen to trained adults in full PPE that have additional signage and equipment working around them as well as first aid trained personnel on their crew.

Adults are required to take, at minimum, a full day training course and pass a test to be certified. The traffic management manual for work on roadways in BC is an 815 page PDF contained below.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/transportation-infrastructure/engineering-standards-and-guidelines/traffic-engineering-and-safety/traffic-engineering/traffic-management-and-traffic-control/2020-traffic-control-manual/2020-traffic-management-manual-for-work-on-roadways.pdf>

I have been told that the school board trustees are aware that there are children stepping in front of vehicles on public roads. I also believe that a consultant may be involved in putting together a report on traffic before any measures will be taken in the name of safety.

I witness on a weekly basis these young children with no concept of the power, handling or stopping distance of a vehicle step into the cross walk while rarely making eye contact with drivers. These children do not have the training or knowledge to be stopping traffic and they are putting themselves and fellow students at risk. They are also putting all drivers at risk as you have children who have never passed a safe driving course making decisions on when vehicles should be stopping.

It is only a matter of time before a very, very serious incident happens and I am choosing to use my

voice to take every step necessary to prevent it.

I would like to see an immediate stop to any student in the district being given a high viz vest and stop sign and being allowed to control traffic and direct pedestrians.

In an attempt to understand why this was even allowed in the first place, I would like to know if there is a plan in place and answers for all the below questions I have in respect to safety, liability and repercussions.

1. What safety and first aid training do school staff have to increase a students odds of survival if they are struck by a moving vehicle?
2. What training do the children receive before they are given the vests and signage?
3. Are the students made aware of the risks and the statistics on injury and death when working in traffic?
4. Are the parents made aware of the risks and statistics of injury and death when working in traffic and do they sign a permission slip allowing this?
5. Do the students do a job hazard analysis and risk assessment daily where they discuss current conditions such as daylight, weather and stopping distance?
6. Is there a competency assessment done on each and every student that is doing traffic control?
7. Is WorkSafeBC aware that there are underage traffic control persons being used by the school district that have not received training and are not being paid for their labour?
8. Are the individual schools and/or the district insured in the event that a student causes a vehicle collision resulting in property damage, injury or even death?
9. What will happen if a student with a vest and stop sign guides another student(s) into the roadway and they are killed by a vehicle?
10. If anyone is injured or killed due to the negligence or inability of a student crossing guard, will it be the student and their family held legally accountable or will it be SD68?

Thank you for taking the time to read through just a few of my long list of concerns. I really hope this is taken seriously and actioned immediately so that I can carry on with peace of mind after the Christmas break.

If for any reason this is still a contentious issue in the new year I will continue my pursuit of ensuring the safety of students, pedestrians and motorists by opening up a communication can of worms with outlets outside of the school district that oversee roadway safety in BC.

Kind Regards.
Darren Kurucz

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